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THE REA LINEMAN

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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St. Louis, Mo.

CONNECTS FENCE TO SERVICE LINE; LOSES HIS LIFE

Contact with a section of wire fence which he had charged a short time before by connecting it with an electric service line at his nearby barn, cost the life of Roy R. Linard, member of the Pennsylvania 25 Adams cooperative.

Members of the family said that Linard previously had current passing through the fence circling a pasture field, from a set of batteries. But this did not work satisfactorily. Linard, it is said, then connected the fence directly with a 110-volt line at the barn.

A short time before Linard came in contact with the fence, a cow grazing in the pasture touched the fence and dropped dead. It is believed Mr. Linard saw the accident and was hurrying to the barn to cut off the current. He attempted to cross the fence, when his leg came in contact with the charged line.

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LINEMAN RESUMES PUBLICATION MONTHLY

Beginning with this issue, the Lineman resumes publication monthly. However, the number of pages has been reduced to half. We favor this plan, during the war, over the other plan of publishing alternate months, because it gives us more frequent contact with our readers.

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SUPERVISORS' CONFERENCE

The Safety and Job Training Program, from a bare out-line of a training course for linemen and helpers, has developed into a comprehensive course of vocational training, comparable to what, in war industries, is known as TWI - Training Within Industry. Intelligent handling of this course has shown the need for a conference of supervisors to exchange experiences, and if possible, to standardize methods.

It is, therefore, planned to invite all State supervisors to a conference in St. Louis during the week of October 19. Mark the date on your calendar.

Even though your State has not yet started the program, you may wish to send someone to the conference.

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SUMMER HAZARDS

The "ol' swimmin' hole" will continue to take its toll of life unless someone administers artificial respiration to the victims. This is also the season when children run their hands through hay-rope pulleys, cut off fingers in mower sickles and fall off ladders while picking fruit. --Ill. RE Bulletin

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REMEMBER: THE BURNS
WERE ON THE HANDS!

PLAN REA LUNCHEON AT NATIONAL SAFETY CONFERENCE OCT. 27-29

The National Safety Congress will be held in Chicago on October 27, 28, and 29, the National Safety Council announces.

The REA luncheon at the Congress was so successful last year that there is an increasing demand that another get-together be arranged at the Congress this year.

Accordingly a room to accommodate 150 has been reserved. The hope is that an even larger room will be needed.

If you plan to attend the Congress, it will help in the arrangements if you will let us know it.

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DISTRICT MEETINGS MARK ANNIVERSARY

To increase the interest in its program, the Illinois REA Safety and Job Training Committee has been holding district meetings in observance of its first anniversary. Directors, superintendents, linemen, office personnel, and their families attend. On page 4 of this issue you will find a report of the increase in the number of First Aid cards held there. Reports made to the editor indicate that line crews in Illinois can take the credit for having saved four lives that might not have been saved without First Aid.

Published Monthly in the Interest of Safety
for Employees of REA Systems

David A. Fleming, Editor

The Case of
Protective Grounds

(Following is the seventh of the series. Discuss this at your Safety Meeting, and send your comment to the editor).

CO-OP EMPLOYEES IN THE SERVICE

Let us not permit the boys from the REA cooperatives to forget the REA, its program, and their part in it. We will need them and their interest when the war is won, and the four freedoms have been made safe for our people. Cooperative action - the same cooperation that has made possible the REA - will perpetuate those freedoms.

The success of the REA is measured by more than the electricity that has been provided for nearly a million farm homes. REA has demonstrated what can be done through cooperation. Extended to other phases of our life, it will prove the capability of our people to order their own affairs.

The boys in the Service must be kept informed on how things are back home. They will want to know. They will want to be assured that the folks back home are providing uninterrupted service to the farms, because they realize that food will win the war, and write the peace.

We want to help keep every REA co-op employee in the Service informed. If you will send us their names, we will put them on our mailing list to receive each issue of the REA Lineman. Their names will form an honor roll of REA co-op boys serving their country.

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WITH THE HELP OF THE LINE CREWS

As of July 1, 1942, the number of REA cooperative systems was 798, operating 369,129 miles of energized lines, and serving 981,193 consumers. This progress has been made possible by REA cooperative line crews. Their spirit of service to nearly a million consumers was celebrated in song at the first anniversary meeting of the Illinois REA Safety and Job Training Committee:

REA will shine tonight,
REA will shine;
She'll shine with a brilliant light,
All down the line;
See all the lights so bright
Turned on so fine!
When the sun goes down and the moon comes up
REA will shine!

...

IF IT IS SMART TO BE THRIFTY WITH YOUR MONEY,
WHY NOT BE THRIFTY WITH YOUR OWN LIFE AND LIMB?

The case here, told to one of our Safety Engineers, is unique in that it had a happy ending.

Storm damage on a system required help from a neighboring cooperative. One lineman who had been patrolling a line, upon reaching a tap pole, saw that the switch fuse had blown. He re-fused it and closed the switch. It immediately kicked out again. He turned to look in the direction of the tap. Something in the distance caught his eye. *It looked like a man on a pole.* Hurrying nearer, he saw *it was a man*, another lineman high on a pole.

Whatever words might have come from the first lineman stuck in his throat. He could only hope. Didn't he see the man on the pole move? Yes, he did. He's all right.

"Good God, man!" exclaimed the first lineman. "I just refused and threw in the switch back there. And don't you have rubber gloves?"

"Throw it in again, if you like," the other answered. "I placed a protective ground with the proper stick and with my rubber gloves on. There'll be no BURNS ON MY HANDS."

This incident illustrates some bad practices as well as some excellent ones. It is not

(Turn to DISCUSSION page 9)

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?

System employees reported the following accidents during July:

1. A lineman was trimming a tree. A limb broke and he fell on a picket fence. His armpit was punctured.

2. A groundman was cleaning up a lot where a new office building was being constructed. A nail protruding from a board penetrated his foot.

3. While hanging a transformer, a lineman's hooks cut out. Grabbing for support, he suffered severe BURNS ON LEFT HAND, arm, and right thigh.

4. A line crew was replacing a single shot switch with an oil circuit breaker on one phase of a two-phase line. Two men climbed the pole, connected the insulated jumper across the double dead end and prepared the jumpers on side insulators on the double arm. The jumpers were long, one hanging far down the pole. The lineman higher up on the pole was watching the other unfasten his belt to descend, and says he saw him changing his safety from one hand to the other when there was a sudden flash and he pitched backward. Under artificial respiration the man regained consciousness. He was removed to a hospital, but two hours later he was dead. Investigation revealed two marks on the pole next to the ground wire *where the man's hands had rested*. The end of one of the jumpers was slightly darkened, possibly indicating it had touched the victim's body.

5. Sawing lumber while at work on a new office building, a carpenter cut his thumb. He lost two days' time.

6. On the same job, a helper bruised his hand while moving tile. Infection developed. Six days lost.

7. A line crew was dismantling an old line for salvage. A pole *appeared* solid, but it snapped while a man was on it. He could not get away with his safety belt fastened. He suffered a broken leg.

8. Two men were replacing a transformer. Evidently confused, they de-energized the line on load side of work area. One man, from force of habit attempted to fuzz the line with his hammer. His arm brushed against the cut-out lead, and he was burned below his right elbow, on his left leg and foot. His arm had to be removed at the shoulder.

9. After completing a new service extension, a lineman returned the stick to the ground and TOOK OFF HIS RUBBER GLOVES, preparing to descend. But his hooks cut out. Grabbing for support, he suffered BURNS ON THE RIGHT HAND and right side.

10. While connecting service wires to a transformer, the lineman's hooks cut out. His body was thrown into contact with one of the bare service wires. In freeing himself, his right armpit caught on the upset bolt. He suffered a severe flesh wound.

11. HAND and leg burns were suffered by a superintendent-lineman

(Turn to WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE page 4)

LINEMAN IS AWARDED PRESIDENT'S MEDAL

Lineman Ralph J. Mossman, of the Kootenai Rural Electric Association, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, now is the owner of the National Safety Council's "President's Medal." It was presented to him at the annual meeting of the Kootenai cooperative by Lieut. Commander H. G. Clark, naval officer in charge of construction at the new Farragut Naval Training Station near Coeur d'Alene. Mossman received the award for prompt and efficient administration of artificial resuscitation on October 28, reviving Charles Bottcher from what, as the naval officer said, "would have been, without Mr. Mossman's expeditious action, certain death." Bottcher had been critically burned and injured in a line pole accident.

* * *

SHORT STORY

"Injury", said the workman.
"Inattention," said the foreman.
"Inflammation," said the physician.
"Incurable," said the hospital.
"Incredible," said the mourners.
"Interred" said the undertaker.
"In Peace," said the tombstone.

(Safety Monitor)

* * *

DISCUSSION (Continued)

a good practice to scatter men along lines without having them aware of one another's whereabouts. The lineman on the pole could have placed a hold tag on the tap pole to indicate that he was on the tap line.

Will either one of these linemen EVER FORGET to place PROTECTIVE GROUNDS on dead lines? REMEMBER: PROTECTIVE GROUNDS ON DEAD LINES PREVENT BURNS ON HANDS!

SAFETY AND JOB TRAINING

Two states last month observed the first anniversary of their Safety and Job Training Program - Illinois and Ohio. "I can see a marked improvement among linemen and managers in their attitude toward the program," writes Lew Buehler, Secretary of the Ohio Committee. "They are more safety conscious, take better care of their tools and equipment, work in a safer manner and take fewer chances."

When the program began in Illinois, there were only five REA employees who had standard rating cards in Red Cross First Aid Training. Today there are 300 standard cards, 275 advanced cards, and 21 instructor's cards. Seven emergency mobile First Aid units also stand ready to carry first aid to the scene of an accident. B. F. Snively, is supervisor.

Classes in Iowa, under the supervision of J. Morrow, began last month. Thirteen cooperatives have not yet passed their resolution of affiliation, but we are expecting 100 percent participation soon.

Kentucky is making a fine start. G. L. Bridwell, Secretary, writes that they now have 10 paid members. Eight others have signified their intention to join.

Organization work is progressing nicely in Indiana, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

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TO THE SECRETARIES:

Please keep us advised of changes in your data sheets. Also, would like to know when new systems join your program.

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**TIME IS VALUABLE
WORK SAFELY!**

ACCIDENT FREQUENCY ON REA SYSTEMS SEVENTH MONTH

(Disabling Injuries per 10,000
miles of energized lines)

| REGION | This Year | Last Year |
|--------|--------------|--------------|
| I | 1.4 | 1.1 |
| II | 0.3* | 3.5 |
| III | 0.7* | 2.7 |
| IV | 0.9* | 1.0 |
| V | 1.4* | 2.3 |
| VI | 0.3 | 5.9 |
| VII | 0.8 | 2.0 |
| VIII | 0.5 | 3.2 |
| IX | 3.4 | 2.9 |
| X | 2.9* | 1.3 |
| U.S. | 1.1 | 2.5 |

* Fatality

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THANKS, MR. WALKER!

The following lines are from a letter by L. B. Walker, Manager of Texas 75 Wharton:

"The June-July issue of the REA Lineman is so good that I feel like writing to you and telling you how much I enjoyed it....

"Sometimes, I am sure, you must wonder whether all the effort you put forth is appreciated.....We who are faced with the immediate responsibility of carrying out the delivery of service to the farmer, are on the front line, where our vision is sometimes obscured by our immediate problems. We need someone back of us who can keep his eyes fixed over the broad scopeof our job. Please don't ever stop hammering at us to remember Safety at all times."

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**SAFETY
IS PART OF
YOUR JOB**

SAFETY CONFERENCE IN OHIO, SEPT. 23

"Modern Methods in Safety Education" will be the subject of the principal address to be delivered at the State Farm and Home Accident and Fire Prevention Conference to be held in Cleveland, O., September 23. Dr. Herbert Stack of New York University, will be the speaker. Harry M. Pontius, Director, Farm Bureau Safety Department, Farm Bureau Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, of Columbus, O., extends an invitation to REA's to attend the conference, and adds: "We hope to have a good attendance from the Ohio and other REA groups as they are one of the key groups in reaching farms on one of the major phases of safety."

REA systems in Ohio and neighboring States are urged to mark the date and place on their calendar and try to attend.

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WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE

(Continued)

while working on a line. No details.

12. A lineman was replacing a transformer on a three-phase pole with C-1 assembly. His safety belt was strapped above the neutral, and he was wearing rubber gloves. After the service and the new transformer had been installed, he loosened the lightning arrester and cut-out which had been installed with the conventional type transformer. In cutting the primary lead, a short piece of the weather-proof wire remained on the line wrapped around the tie wire and attached to the conductor with a solderless connector. In trying to take this wire off, one end of it apparently came in contact with his left arm just above his rubber gloves. He will return to work within 4 months.